Banning of Loudspeakers

2007. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the loudspeakers have been banned under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 all over the country during night-times except in the closed premises such as auditoria, and under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to lift the ban, especially during the period of Durga Pooja festival in Ashwin month and Ganesh Festival;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government on this issue; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The use of loudspeakers and public address system is prohibited between 10.00 P.M. to 6.00 A.M. all over the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Illegal Felling of Trees

2008. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing degradation and illegal felling of trees in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken to stop felling of trees and for development of forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) According to the State of Forest Report 1999, forest cover in the country has increased by 3896 sq. km. as compared to 1997 assessment. The extent of dense forest cover has increased by 10,098 sq. km. However, illegal